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H I S T O R Y

O F

FAIRFORD CHURCH:

W I T H

A SHORT INTRODUCTORY ACCOUNT

OF THE ANTIENT AND PRESENT STATE OF

The TOWN of FAIRFORD,

I N

GLOUCESTERSHIRE;

N. CHIEFLY EXTRACTED FROM

RUDDER'S NEW HISTORY of GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

THE NINTH EDITION.

CIRENCESTER:

PRINTED BY S. RUDDER, MDCCLXXX.

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HISTORY
OF THE

FAIRFORD CHURCH:

A SHORT HISTORY ACCOUNT



the TOWN OF FAIRFORD

GLoucestershire

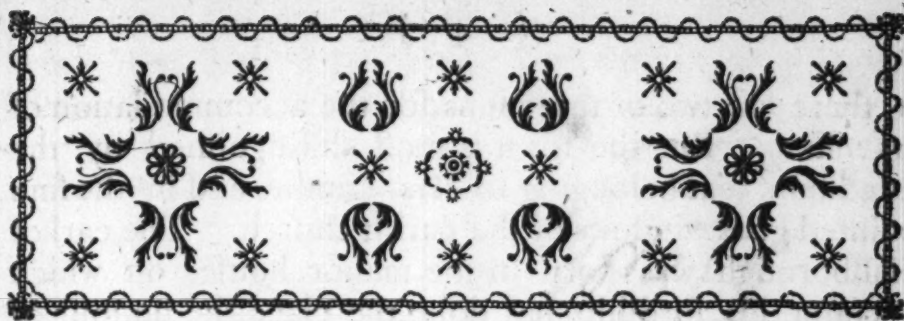
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T H E
H I S T O R Y
O F
FAIRFORD CHURCH, &c.

THE town of FAIRFORD lies in the hundred of Britwell's-barrow, four miles distant west from Leachlade, eight east from Cirencester, and twenty-three eastward from Gloucester. A fine gravel lies near the surface, which makes the place dry and healthy. The little river Coln runs through it, over which there has been a bridge for many ages; but before that was built, the great road led through a ford at this place, which gave occasion to the name of *Fareforde*, as it was antiently written; where *fare* does not signify *fair* or *beautiful*, but a *passage*, in which sense we even now sometimes use it, as in *thorough-fare*, &c. and it is derived from the Saxon word *papan*, to *go*, to *pass*; so that the name is descriptive of the situation, and signifies the *passage* at the *ford*. The river produces excellent trout and crayfish, and empties itself into the Thames a little below the town.

Here is a market, not much frequented, on Thursdays, and two fairs, held, since the alteration of the style, on May 14, and Nov. 12, for cattle and pedlery. The turnpike-road from Cirencester to London leading thro'
it,

it, there are two or three inns for the accommodation of travellers. But the town is most distinguished by the handsome seat belonging to Mrs. Lambe, and by the fine painted glass windows of the parish church. The earl of Hillborough was born in the manor house, on which account his lordship has done the place the honour of taking the title of viscount Fairford.

Mrs. Lambe's seat stands about a quarter of a mile above the town. It is a good house, with a deer-park, and gardens well laid out, and kept in proper order. There is a vista from the north front, terminated by an obelisk about a mile from the house. A fine plantation stretches along the east bank of the Coln, with pleasant serpentine walks, and openings from several seats and buildings, to take in views of the Wiltshire hills and other distant objects.

The house was built by Mr. Barker, grandfather to the present proprietor, but modernized and much improved by the late Mr. Lambe. Dr. Parsons, who collected many materials towards A History of Gloucestershire, in his manuscript written about the beginning of this century, relates, that at the building of it, many urns and medals were found, the former broken by the workmen in digging, without saying what the medals were. Sir Robert Atkyns took his account from Dr. Parsons's *Collections*, and enlarged the sense, in saying, that medals and urns were *often* dug up; and our topographical writers have followed him. But upon strict inquiry, it appears that none have been found here, except the above. These valuables were most probably concealed, previously to a skirmish which happened hereabout, not unlikely in the time of the civil wars between the Yorkists and Lancastrians, tho' our historians have not taken notice of it. Yet, that there was an engagement, is certain, from two *tumuli*, little more than half a mile from the house, which having been opened about the end of the last century, were found to contain many human skulls, and bones of the slain.

slain. But there is no vestige of an encampment in the parish.

OF THE CHURCH.

The church is in the deanery of Fairford. It is a vicarage, worth about 150*l.* a year. The presentation is in the dean and chapter of Gloucester. It formerly belonged to the abbey of Tewkesbury, and upon the dissolution of that house, was granted to the chapter of Gloucester, 33 H. 8.

The church is a beautiful building, 125 feet long, and 55 broad. It consists of a spacious body, supported by handsome fluted pillars, and two proportionable aisles, very handsomely paved in chequers of blue and white stone, and is neatly pewed. It has a handsome tower in the midst, ornamented with pinnacles, and several scutcheons of coat armour. On the south side is *Checky*, bearing a chevron. On the east side, *Three chevrons*, for Clare earl of Gloucester. There are three chancels, and a vestry. The middle chancel is fitted up with stalls, like the choirs of some cathedrals. They were probably intended for the accommodation of the abbat and monks of Tewkesbury, to whom the vicarage belonged 'till their house was dissolved.

John Tame purchased the manor of Fairford of king Henry the Seventh, and levied a fine thereof in the 13th year of that king's reign. He was a merchant in London, and having taken a ship bound for Rome, in which was a large quantity of very curious painted glass, built this church in the year 1493, for the sake of placing the glass in it, and dedicated it to the Virgin Mary. Upon account of that painted or stained glass, this church is famed and admired, not in England only, but in most parts of Europe. It has twenty-eight large windows, in which
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are represented the most striking passages of the Old and New Testaments, and some of them so exquisitely finished, that sir ANTHONY VANDYKE affirmed that the pencil could not exceed them. The designs were done by that eminent master ALBERT DURER, to whom the greatest improvements in the art of painting on glass are attributed, and the windows of the church are proportioned exactly to fit each story. In the north side are the stories of the Old Testament; in the east and south, those of the New; and that of the Judgment in the west.

WINDOW 1. The representation of the serpent tempting Eve to eat the forbidden fruit; Moses keeping his father's sheep in the wilderness, and an imitation of the fiery bush which God appeared to him in; Joshua, who succeeded Moses, and an angel guiding him to war; Sheba, the queen of the south, hearing and trying the great wisdom of king Solomon, and offering him gifts.

WINDOW 2. The salutation of Mary and Elizabeth; the birth of John the Baptist; Mary going to visit her cousin Elizabeth; Joseph and Mary going to be contracted, and also the contract.

WINDOW 3. The angel Gabriel's salutation to the virgin Mary, (motto) *Ave Maria, plena dominus te.*—for *Ave Maria, plena gratiæ, dominus tecum.* ‘Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord be with thee.’ The birth of our Saviour, who lies in a manger, and Mary standing over him; the oxen feeding in their stalls; the shepherds with their crooks; the epiphany, or the wise men that came from the east to worship our Saviour, offering him gold, frankincense, and myrrh; the purification of the virgin mother, who is offering a pair of turtle doves in a cage: the circumcision of our Saviour, and Simeon receiving him in the temple. Here is also a perspective view of the inside of the temple.

WINDOW

WINDOW 4. Joseph flying with Mary and the young child into Egypt, to avoid the cruelty of Herod; Joseph gathering fruit in the wilderness, and an angel bending down the branches; the assumption of the virgin Mary; Joseph and Mary seeking our Saviour after the feast at Jerusalem, who is found disputing with the doctors in the temple.

WINDOW 5. The advent, or our Saviour riding to Jerusalem; Zacheus in the sycamore-tree; the multitude crying *Hosanna in the highest*, and singing (with notes before them) *Gloria, laus, et honor tibi sit*; 'Glory, praise, and honour be unto thee:' our Saviour praying in the garden that the cup of affliction might pass from him; Judas going to betray him; Pilate and the high priest sitting in judgment against him; their scourging him and compelling him to bear his cross. In the upper part of this window is a representation of the crucifixion of our Lord, with the penitent thief on his right hand, and the blasphemous thief on his left; Mary and other women; also the Roman soldiers attending his execution.

WINDOW 6. Joseph of Arimathea and Nichodemus taking down the body of our Saviour, and placing it in the sepulchre; a representation of the wonderful darkness; St. Michael and his angels fighting the dragon and the fallen angels, whom he overcomes; with Belzebub looking through a fiery grate.

WINDOW 7. The anointing of our Saviour for his burial in the sepulchre; the angel that rolled away the stone, sitting in the midst, and asking them, 'Why seek ye the living among the dead? Our Saviour is risen and gone;' with perspective views of buildings in the garden. The transfiguration of our Saviour; Moses and Elias; the ten commandments upon two tables of stone; St. Peter, James, and John, with the three tabernacles which Peter proposed to make; Jesus appearing to

to his mother, with this salutation, *Salve sancta parens.*
 'Hail holy mother.'

WINDOW 8. Christ appearing to two of his disciples as they were going to Emmaus; his breaking bread before them; his appearing to the twelve apostles, explaining the scripture to them, who all believed except Thomas, who said he would not, 'till he had put his fingers into his side, and seen the print of the nails in his hands and feet.

WINDOW 9. Jesus shewing himself to Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, John, and the sons of Zebedee, as they were fishing in the sea of Tiberias, where they had been toiling all night without success; the miraculous draught of fishes, and a gridiron with fish broiling on it for them to eat; our Saviour's ascension into heaven from the mount of olives; and the Holy Ghost descending on his disciples in the likeness of a dove.

The tenth, eleventh, and twelfth windows are each divided into four compartments; and in each compartment is represented one of the apostles, with an article of the apostles creed, in latin, disposed in an oval form round his head.

WINDOW 10. 1. St. Peter, with a scroll, on which is written, *Credo in deum patrem omnipotentem, creatorem celi et terræ.* 'I believe in God the father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.' 2. St. Andrew, *Et in Jesum Christum, filium ejus unicum, dominum nostrum.* — 'And in Jesus Christ, his only son, our lord.' 3. St. James, *Qui conceptus est de spiritu sancto, natus ex Maria virgine.* 'Who was conceived of the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary.' 4. St. John, *Passus sub Pontio Pilato, crucifixus, mortuus, et sepultus.* 'Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried.'

WINDOW

WINDOW 11. 1. St. Thomas, *Descendit ad inferna, tertio die resurrexit a mortuis.* 'He descended into hell, the third day he rose again from the dead.' 2. St. James the Less, *Ascendit ad celos, sedit ad dexteram dei patris omnipotentis.* 'He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God, the father almighty.' 3. St. Philip, *Inde venturus iudicare vivos et mortuos.* 'From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.' 4. St. Bartholomew, *Credo in spiritum sanctum.* 'I believe in the Holy Ghost.'

WINDOW 12. 1. St. Matthias, *Sanctam ecclesiam catholicam, sanctum communionem.* 'The holy catholic church; the communion of saints.' 2. St. Simon, *Remissionem peccatorum.* 'The forgiveness of sins.' 3. St. Jude, *Carnis resurrectionem.* 'The resurrection of the body.' 4. St. Matthew, *Et vitam eternam. Amen.* 'And the life everlasting. Amen.'

WINDOW 13. There are in this window the primitive fathers, St. Jerom, St. Gregory, St. Ambrose, and St. Augustin.

WINDOW 14. King David sitting in judgment against the Amalakite for slaying Saul, as exprest in 2 Sam. chap. 1. v. 10. and ordering his servants to fall upon the Amalakite for so doing.

WINDOW 15. The fifteenth is the great west window, representing the day of judgment. In the upper part Christ sits on the rainbow, and has the earth for his footstool. He is surrounded by cherubims and seraphims; and it is supposed that the sword on his left hand, and the lilly on his right, are intended to represent the attributes of Justice and Mercy. Below, St. Michael weighs a wicked person in one scale, against a good one in the other, and tho' a devil endeavours to turn the scale,

scale, the good outweighs the bad. The dead are rising from their graves, (some with the grave-clothes on their backs, others with them on their arms) to come to judgment. From the mouth of an angel receiving a saint into heaven, proceeds a label, on which is written, *Omnis spi-----s lauda d'um*. 'O all my spirit praise God.' St. Peter, with the key, lets the blessed spirits into heaven, thus expressing himself, *Gratias agam d'no deo pro*. 'I will give God thanks for this extraordinary gift;' alluding, no doubt, to the extraordinary powers which some suppose that apostle to be endowed with above others. When they pass from him they are cloathed in white, and crowned with crowns of glory, accompanied with this sentence, *Bene----- vit' deus in donis suis*. 'God hath blessed their lives with his own gifts.' On one side is the representation of hell, with the great devil drawn with red and white teeth, three eyes, and scaly legs and face: Some are going to hell headlong, some on the devils backs, and some on their arms: There is Dives in hell, praying for a drop of water to cool his tongue, and Lazarus is placed in contrast, among the blessed, in Abraham's bosom; also a woman going to hell in a wheelbarrow, for scolding at her husband; with many other devices, agreeable to the gross ideas of the designer. This window is of high estimation.

WINDOW 16. This window is a little imperfect. In it is the representation of king Solomon determining to which of the two harlots the live child belonged; Midas, king of Phrygia, with ass's ears; Sampson slaying the Philistians with the jaw-bone of an ass; Delilah that bereft him of his strength, by cutting off his hair; two Jewish senators disputing points of the law; and a piece of glass, reckoned of great value, supposed to represent rubies and diamonds.

WINDOW 17. The four evangelists, with their symbols, writing their gospels.

In

In the three next windows are twelve prophets, with scrolls round their heads, whereon are written the following select parts of their prophecies concerning the Messiah, his resurrection, judgment, &c.

WINDOW 18. Hosea, *O mors ero tua.* 'O death, I will be thy plagues.' c. xiii. 14. Amos, *Qui edificat in cælum ascensione.* 'He that buildeth his stories in heaven.' c. ix. 6. Malachi, *--cedam ad vos judicio, et ero testis velox.* 'I will come near to you to judgment, and I will be a swift witness.' c. iii. 5. Joel, *In valle Josphat judicabit omnes gentes.* 'In the valley of Jehosaphat shall he judge all nations.' c. iii. 2.

WINDOW 19. Zephaniah, *Invocabuntur omnes eum, et servient ei.* 'They shall call upon him, and serve him.' c. iii. 9. Micah, *Eum odium habueris dimitte.* 'Put away from thee hatred.' Ezekiel, *O v'am vos de sepulchris vestris pop'le meus.* 'O my people, I will raise you out of your graves.' c. xxxvii. 12. Obadiah, *Et erit reg'um d'ni. ame.* 'And the kingdom shall be the Lord's.' v. 21.

WINDOW 20. Jeremiah, *Datorem invocabitis qui fecit en indidit selos.* 'Thou shalt call him the giver of all things, even he who hath made and established the heavens.' David, *Deus dixit, en filius meus es tu, ego hodie genui te.* 'God said, thou art my son, this day have I begotten thee.' Ps. ii. 7. Isaiah, *Ecce virgo concipiet & pariet filium.* 'Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son.' c. vii. 14. Zechariah, *Suscitabo filios tuos.* 'I will raise up thy sons.' c. ix. 13.

N. B. The passages of scripture are not agreeable to any of the translations now in use with us.

The other eight windows are in the body of the church; in the four on the north side the persecutors of the church are portray'd, with devils over their heads.

WINDOW

WINDOW 21. Domitian, Trajan, and Adrian.

WINDOW 22. Antonine ; Nero, drawn with a red face, in allusion to his cruelty ; and Marcus Aurelius.

WINDOW 23. Herod destroying the young children ; Severus, who came into Britain with his army, and was slain at York, about the year 214 ; and Maximinus.

WINDOW 24. Decius ; and Annanias and Caleb, that bought our Saviour of Judas.

In the four windows on the south side of the body of the church, are the twelve Roman emperors, preservers of the church, *viz.* Philippus, Valerianus, &c. with angels over them.

The whole is extremely neat, and the lead of some of the windows is so well disposed, that a stranger will not immediately discover any, as it is generally made to serve for the darker shades.

In the historical pieces are represented many other figures and circumstances, not mentioned in this short account, but which are very proper appendages to the main subjects. The whole was very happily preserved from the fury of men of an intemperate zeal, in the great civil war, by the care of Mr. Oldisworth, the impropiator, and others ; not by turning the figures upside down, as some suppose, (for they never minded which end was upwards, if they were but images and paintings) but by securing the glass in some private place, 'till the restoration, when it was put up again : But for want of skill in the person who had the direction, part of it was transposed, which accounts for the derangement and disorder apparent in placing the later persecutors before the former.

About the year 1725, the honourable Mrs. Farmor gave the wire frames, which are placed before the windows on the outside, to preserve the glass from accidents.

MONUMENTS

MONUMENTS and INSCRIPTIONS.

Under an arch, between the north and middle chancels, there is a very large, handsome tomb of grey marble, polished, and in excellent preservation, for John Tame, esq; who built the church. The effigies of him and his wife are engraved on brass plates at top, and this writing stands at their feet :

For Ihūs loue pray for me : I may not pray nowe pray ye :
With a pater noster & an ave : That my paynys releffyd may be.

Round the verge of the top stone, on brass plates,

✠ Orate pro animabus Johis Tame Armigeri et Alicie uxoris eius qui quidem Johēs obiit octauo die Mensis Maij anno dnī Milefimo quingentesimo et anno Regni Regis Henrici sept'i sextodecimo. Et predicta Alicia obiit vicesimo die Mensis Decembris anno Domini Millimo CCCC° septuagesimo primo quorum aīabus propicietur dē. For Ihūs loue pray for me I may not pray now pray ye With a pater noster ande ave That my paynys releffyd may be.

The tomb is ornamented at top and round the sides with several scutcheons of his arms, viz. *Argent, a dragon combatant vert with a lion rampant azure, crowned proper*; and those of his wife, viz. *A chevron between three birds*, the species not distinguishable.

On a large flat stone of grey marble, are the figures of sir Edmond Tame, and his two wives, on brass plates; and upon plates of brass round the edge, it is thus written in antient black characters :

✠ Of youre charite pray for the soule of Edmond Tame knyght here under buried which decessid the first day of October in the yere of oure lord god a thousand CCCCXXXIIIJ and for the soule of Agnes his first Wife which decessid the XXVI day of Iuly an° es & all xpē soules Ihū have mercy Amen.

On the dexter side, at top, are the arms of Tame, as before; on the sinister side, the same coat, impaling, *Sable, on a cross within a bordure ingrailed Or, five pellets*, for Grevil.

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In the north aisle is a raised monument, with the figures of a man and woman lying along on the top, for Roger Ligon, esq; and Catherine his wife, who had two husbands before she was married to him; first, Edmond Tame, esq; and secondly, sir Walter Buckle, privy counsellor to queen Elizabeth, who all lie buried in the church.

In the middle chancel are several memorials for the antient family of Oldisworth, among which are the two following:

Depositum AUSTINI OLDISWORTH, profapiâ veteri, utroq; nomine, oriundi: Viri inter Ecclesiæ Anglicanæ Fautores, inter Rei antiquariæ Studiosos, intra Affines, Cives, Amicos, et Familiares suos, diu multumq; desiderati. Obijt 27^o die Augusti, Anno Salutis 1717, Ætatis Climacterico.

Sacrum Reliquiis
Venerabilis Viri

IACOBI OLDISWORTH,
Cujus

In Deo colendo Pietatem,
In curandis animis Diligentiam,
In Parochiali Regimine Authoritatem,
In Eleemosynis largiendis Fidem,
In OEconomiâ ordinandâ Prudentiam,
In Hospitiis celebrandis Alacritatem,
In Ecclesiis ornandis Munificentiam,
In omni demum vitæ stadio & Colore,

Integras Virtutes, moresq; castos & verè Christianos,

Tota hæc Vicinia,

Et ora omnium quibus innotuit,

Palam clamant, abundèq; testantur;

Dum in Posteris efferunt,

(Quod Historiam potius quam Epitaphium desideret)

Rarum et memorabile Exemplar.

Obijt tercio die Septembris MDCCXXII^o,

Ætat. LXXXII^o.

In a scutcheon at top are the family arms, viz. *Gules, on a fess argent three lioncels passant gardant purpure; a crescent for difference.* Against

Against the south wall of the chancel, without,

In Memory of
C H A R L E S M O R G A N, Gent. of this Parish,
 who departed this Life the 18th Day of August, 1754,
 In the fortieth Year of his Age.
 He was the only surviving Descendant
 of a very antient Family,
 Whose Virtues, together with their Possessions, he inherited.
 By the uniform and unaffected Practice of the one,
 As well as by a liberal Use of the other,
 He truly merited and universally obtained
 The distinguishing Characters
 Of a faithful Friend, a good Neighbour, and a worthy honest Man.
 Also of Elizabeth his Wife,
 Who exchanged this Life for a better
 The 12th Day of October, 1772, Aged 58 Years.
 She succeeded her Consort in the Care and Education
 Of a numerous Family of Children,
 A Charge which she most affectionately undertook,
 And happily liv'd to accomplish:
 And at her Departure, she left them,
 As the best Rule of their future Conduct,
 The amiable Pattern of her own Life and Manners.
 In grateful Testimony of so much maternal Excellence,
 They here unite their common Tribute of filial Regard and Vene-
 To the best of Mothers. [ration,

T H E E N D

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HISTORY and ANTIQUITIES
O F
CIRENCESTER.

INCLUDING THE
CIVIL and MILITARY AFFAIRS
OF THAT ANTIENT TOWN;

W I T H
Some ACCOUNT of the ABBEY and ABBATS;

AND OF THE DESCENT OF THE
MANOR and HUNDRED of CIRENCESTER,

FROM THE CONQUEST TO THE PRESENT TIME.

ILLUSTRATED WITH TWO COPPER PLATES.

CIRENCESTER:

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